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USSR-US: MOSCOW IS MAKING PLANS FOR THE PROSPECTIVE TALKS ON LIMITING STRATEGIC ARMS. THE SOVIETS SEE THE INITIAL ROUND AS A "CONFIDENCE-BUILDING EXERCISE."

A SOVIET DIPLOMAT IN GENEVA HAS SAID THAT THE USSR ENVISAGES A DRAWN-OUT DIALOGUE WITH LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT AGREEMENT WILL COME AT AN EARLY STAGE.

MOSCOW CONSIDERS THE FIRST PHASE A MEANS OF ENABLING THE SOVIET AND US MILITARY "ESTABLISHMENTS" TO ARRIVE AT A BETTER APPRECIATION OF EACH SIDE'S STRATEGIC THINKING.

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THE SOVIETS EVIDENTLY HAVE GIVEN A GOOD DEAL OF THOUGHT TO WHO WILL REPRESENT THEM AND WHERE THE TALKS MIGHT TAKE PLACE. MOSCOW REPORTEDLY REGARDS MONTREUX AS A DESIRABLE SITE WHICH WOULD SEPARATE THE BILATERAL ARMS TALKS FROM THE EIGHTEEN NATION DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE IN GENEVA, YET BE NEAR ENOUGH TO BENEFIT FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS ALREADY AVAILABLE THERE.

IF THE ASSIGNMENT SEEMS TOO DEMANDING FOR THE HEALTH OF FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV, THE DIPLOMAT SAID THAT A SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER MAY HEAD MOSCOW'S DELEGATION. HE NOTED THAT KUZNETSOV, THE OVERSEER OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S "NORMALIZATION" AFTER THE SOVIET INVASION LAST SUMMER, HAD NOT HAD A VACATION IN OVER A YEAR. THE SOURCE WAS AT PAINS TO EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS THE "DRIVING FORCE" ON THE SOVIET SIDE AND WOULD RETAIN CONTROL EVEN IF THE DELEGATION IS HEADED BY A MILITARY FIGURE.

MARSHAL ZAKHAROV, SOVIET FIRST DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER AND CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF, WAS MENTIONED AS THE LIKELY SENIOR MILITARY MEMBER OF ITS NEGOTIATING TEAM. HE AND KUZNETSOV WOULD BE HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE FIRST EXPLORATORY ROUND OF TALKS. DROPPING THEIR NAMES AT THIS TIME PROBABLY IS A HINT THAT THE US SHOULD NAME DELEGATES OF COMPARABLE STATURE.

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